SEPTEMBER 2019

GRID & NEA

IMPACT UPDATES

Working Hand in Hand

by Brenda Mensah, GRID & NEA Program Coordinator

Some years ago in the Janga area, NEA was working with fourteen communities. Two of the smaller communities (located about two kilometres apart) had no school. Neither community had a student population that would warrant its own school, but with the combined population they qualified to have teachers provided by the Ministry of Education. They asked NEA for help to construct the building but a problem arose in that both groups wanted the school located in their own village. It was one of NEA's first efforts in mediation. In the end, the leaders realized that if they couldn't compromise on this, their children would lose. The final agreement was that the school be located halfway between the two villages, so the children would all walk the same distance. The Government of Canada provided the materials for this project and the two communities provided the labour.

What was beautiful to watch was how the people from both villages came together with this common goal and worked side by side digging foundations, carrying water, molding blocks and hauling cement until it was ready for painting. They built not only a good school for their children but a good relationship between the villages.

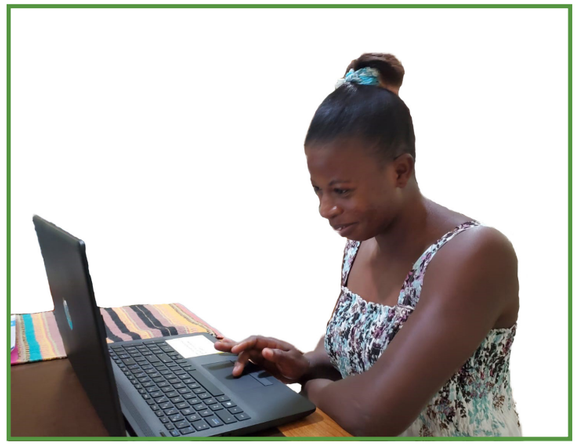
At that time, a team of Canadian volunteers was with NEA for a few weeks, and one of their assignments was to paint the school. They painted boys and girls in Ghana's colours at the bottom of the building, and then created the impressive tree. If you look closely, you will see that the leaves are actually handprints...the handprints of all the children who were the first to attend that new school, which, by the way, is still in operation today.

Education Transforms Lives

Remember Felicia? The girl behind the #5ForTheirFuture campaign last year. The pleading look of a girl who asked *"Please give me a chance."*

She has been accepted into the Presbyterian Midwifery Training School in Dormaa Ahenkro, Ghana. It is not an easy school to get into. The admission process is difficult. Felicia had to meet all the admission requirements to be a qualified candidate and then undergo a competitive interview before she was accepted into the school.

We can hardly wait to see her using the skills she will gain in the Leyaata Hospital maternity wing.



Felicia was excited and happy to receive a donated computer from generous supporters who have been following her journey since she was a little girl. It's a great tool for her to get ahead.

Dr. Benjamin Asubiojo who has specialized in obstetrics and gynecology in Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College Tanzania has successfully completed his dissertation and final exams.

He will graduate in November 2019 and return to Ghana. He will assist in the operational planning of the Leyaata Hospital and will lead this department once the doors open.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Government of Canada through the Leyaata Ane Project in sponsoring his training which we are confident will play a vital role in rescuing more mothers and babies in the years ahead.

"Thank you for all you have done for me to be able to serve in the Leyaata Hospital. A great future and impact awaits!"

Dr. Benjamin Asubiojo (2nd from the left).

Felix is from the village of Yaara. He was sponsored initially to go to Damongo Secondary School and again sponsored to attend Sunyani Polytechnic where he studied Wood Technology for three years. Following the classroom instruction, he apprenticed with a Master Carpenter for four years in Techiman. He is now a full-fledged Master Carpenter having met all the requirements for this profession.

Felix is very grateful that he has been sponsored to reach his goal. He is now back to NEA as the on-site carpenter. He recently led the construction of the roadside fence in front of the hospital site and is currently leading the roofing of the new school being built in the community. We are so proud of him!

Felix at the Carpenter School building site.

One of our scholars who lost both of her parents during her teenage years, came to NEA for support when she gained acceptance to a Nursing College. She finally graduated and received her diploma. She looks forward to spending her life providing healthcare for others.

These stories are the living evidence of how vital education is in transforming people's lives.

These transformations of lives of the girls, boys, men and women were possible because of your generous support and passion in giving them a hand up so they can stand on their own and become leaders and advocates for their communities.

This school year, we are supporting thirty one students. Eight are pursuing theological training with support from Westney Heights Baptist Church.

Sustainability at Work

CHURCH GROWTH

Teaching and training young people in the church is vital in growing the body of Christ. It prepares them to become future leaders and allows them to contribute to the church. Helping the youth to grow spiritually in their formative years will equip them to make an impact for Christ both now and in their future. As part of youth's training and teaching, we hold an annual youth conference. This year, two hundred youth attended the five-day conference. The theme was "Preparing the Youth for Effective Stewardship".

PEACE BUILDING

Building peace is critical to all sustainable development initiatives and this has also been a GRID-NEA priority. When there is conflict, every area of life suffers. Teachers and nurses do not want to serve in communities where there is no peace. Infrastructure like schools, clinics and wells are often destroyed in angry moments. Much time is spent in working with local chiefs and leaders to look for ways to prevent conflicts and solve problems amicably. As a result, development in food security, health, education, environmental care and more is thriving.

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GRID (Ghana Rural Integrated Development) and **NEA** (Northern Empowerment Association) are partner organizations working to alleviate poverty in Northern Ghana. Motivated by Christ's love, our mission is to assist poor communties to meet their basic needs in a sustainable manner.